

Decisions made for information disclosure request IDP232

12 November 2021



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This document lists the decision made with regard to IDP232, received by the GCF Secretariat on 27 August 2021. The request contains multiple inquiries, with some items being granted and some items being denied on 12 November 2021. As such, this request has been **partially granted**.

Inquiry	Decision
<p>Whether the Fund has developed protocols, guidelines, directives or any other document that establishes the steps and strategies that the Fund should apply for the management of retaliation cases suffered by persons who have criticized the projects that the Fund currently finances, or the projects under consideration by the Fund. The question refers both to documents or protocols that regulate the management of retaliation suffered by people who are raising complaints before an independent control mechanism, as well as those that regulate the management of retaliation against those who have expressed themselves in the press, social media or other channels different from the spaces formally established by the Fund (or its clients) as participation mechanisms. In the event that protocols, or guidelines of this type have been developed, please provide a copy. If such protocols, procedures or guidelines have not been established, explain the principles, rules and standards that the Fund applies to decide on the actions to be adopted in such cases.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was provided with links to relevant Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board decisions and other documents.</p>
<p>Identify all areas of the Fund that have powers, authority and responsibilities related to receiving and handling retaliation cases against individuals who have criticized projects financed or planned to be financed by the Fund. Identify both the areas involved in individual cases and those responsible for the formulation and evaluation of the Fund's policies regarding retaliation. In each case, indicate the specific attribution, competence and function of each of the areas identified, and attach documentation detailing these specific functions and competencies. Detail the information clarifying the scope of the</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was provided with links to relevant GCF Board decisions and other documents.</p>

<p>intervention of each area according to the context in which the retaliation occurs (for example, in the context of the use of an independent control mechanism, in the context of a community consultation, in the context of the exercise of the right to free speech outside the channels formally established by the Fund or by clients, prior to project approval, after the project was approved, etc...).</p>	
<p>Report how many allegations of retaliations were received by the Fund since 2011, disaggregating the information by year, country, region and type of retaliation. Also detail how many of these cases were raised before independent control mechanisms, national offices of the Fund, or other units or areas of the Fund that have received these types of complaints.</p>	<p>Partially Granted. The requester was provided with links to the Independent Integrity Unit (IIU) website, including annual reports. Information starting from 2018 are covered, since the IIU became operational in late 2016. Information for the period covering 2011 to 2017 was therefore not available as per paragraph 24 of the IDP (information does not exist).</p>
<p>Describe the type of response the Fund has provided to the different cases of retaliation received since 2011, indicating the actions taken to respond to each situation. Also detail how many of these cases were dismissed because the Fund considered that they were not related to the project being financed.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was provided with links to IIU annual reports.</p>
<p>Report whether the Fund is currently working on the development of policies, protocols or guidelines aimed at improving the Fund's responses to prevent and respond to retaliations suffered by people who have criticized projects financed by the Fund. If so, please provide details on what the initiative consists of, which areas and specialists are involved, provide a copy of any guidelines, documents or terms of reference for consultancies related to that, explain whether mechanisms for consultation with civil society organizations are foreseen, and what timeframe is envisaged, together with all the information on the objectives, details and characteristics of the process.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was informed about the proposed update of the Initial Fiduciary Principles and Standards of the Fund.</p>

<p>Indicate whether, prior to project approval, the Fund conducts an assessment of the risks of retaliations against individuals who express criticism of the projects or policies financed by the Fund. If such an assessment about risks of retaliations is conducted only for some projects, indicate the criteria used to decide whether or not to conduct such an assessment in each case. Attach a copy of the documents, protocols or policies in which these criteria are established and the methodology for their application.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was provided with links to IRM cases.</p>
<p>In the event that a prior assessment of the risks of retaliations against persons expressing critical opinions of a project or a policy financed by the Fund is carried out prior to its approval, please attach the methodology applied by the Fund to assess such risks of retaliations. Please attach all documents, protocols and technical guides that explain and develop this methodology to identify the risks of retaliation, and indicate the procedure followed for its development. If those assessments are only made through the application of the environmental and social framework, explain how the specific risks of reprisals are assessed when applying those frameworks, attaching a copy of the documents, protocols or policies related to the specific methodology used to assess risks of reprisals.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was provided with links to IRM cases. The requester was referred to the IRM's Supporting Operating Procedures on retaliation.</p>
<p>Indicate how many times has the Fund decided not to invest in a project since the year 2011, due to significant risks of reprisals identified. In the event that the Fund has general guidelines or criteria that it applies to make the decision not to invest in a project based on the identified risks of retaliations, please provide a copy of them.</p>	<p>Denied as per para. 24 of the IDP (information does not exist).</p>
<p>Report whether, in cases where risks of retaliation against individuals who criticize projects or policies financed by the Fund are identified, an action plan is established to mitigate such risks, detect such cases and respond effectively. In the event that such an action plan is</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was referred to the IRM's Supporting Operating Procedures on retaliation.</p>



<p>established, please attach the documents, protocols or technical guides establishing how such plans should be formulated.</p>	
<p>Detail the projects approved by the Fund since 2018 where risks of reprisals have been identified, against those who express critical views on the projects and policies funded by the Fund. If they are not published on the bank's website, attach a copy of the documents that contain the results of that evaluation.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was informed that there was none.</p>
<p>Identify all the areas of the Fund that have competencies, powers and responsibilities related to the right to participation of the people affected by the projects financed or planned to be financed by the Fund. In each case, indicate the attribution, competence and specific function in charge of each of the identified areas, and attach documentation detailing these specific functions and competencies.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was provided with links to relevant GCF Board decisions and other documents.</p>
<p>Indicate whether the Fund has prepared any reports, diagnoses, investigations, studies, audits or any other type of work to evaluate the way in which retaliation cases suffered by those who have expressed critical opinions on projects financed by the Fund have been handled by the Fund. If so, please attach copies of these documents.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was provided with links to IIU annual reports.</p>
<p>Report whether the Fund develops trainings or capacity building policies for its staff in relation to the identification of retaliation risks in the context of the projects it finances, and on the appropriate measures to mitigate and respond to such risks. If so, please indicate what these training policies consist of, their content, when they have been developed and applied, how many staff members have participated and to which areas of the Fund they belong (please also indicate the number of people that make up the total Fund staff).</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was informed that IRM staff have undergone training. The requester was also provided with links to relevant GCF Board decisions and other documents.</p>

<p>Indicate whether the Fund has any trainings for its staff regarding the importance of the right to freedom of expression and the right to participation in the context of the projects it finances, as well as their impacts on development. If so, please indicate what these training consist of, their content, when they have been developed and applied, how many staff members have participated and to which areas of the Fund they belong.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was informed that there has been no such training.</p>
<p>Indicate whether the Fund has prepared any study, report or research to evaluate how laws restricting freedom of expression and participation (for example, laws that sanction fake news, that prevent protests, among others...) impact on the possibility for people to openly discuss and participate of consultations in relation to the projects it finances, or in the effectiveness of the projects it finances. If so, please attach such reports, studies or research.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was informed that there has been no such study.</p>
<p>Provide information on whether the Fund has prepared any studies, reports or research to assess how mobility restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted the ability of communities to actively participate in discussions on the projects it finances. If so, please provide such reports, studies or research.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was informed that there has been no such study.</p>
<p>Report on any other actions or policies developed by the Fund to prevent and respond to retaliation suffered by individuals who have criticized projects that the Fund finances or is considering.</p>	<p>Granted. The requester was provided with links to the IIU website.</p>



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